

PRACTICE FIREWORKS SAFETY THIS SUMMER

Summertime is here and 4th of July celebrations are just around the corner. As you plan your holiday activities, the Kannapolis Fire Department encourages you to have fun and be safe. Many people like to celebrate with fireworks.

Sparklers, fountains and novelty fireworks that do not explode or have a report, are not intended to spin, do not leave the ground and do not fly through the air are permissible in North Carolina.

Examples of legal fireworks are snake and glow worms, smoke devices that produce white or colored smoke, trick noisemakers – including party poppers, string poppers and snappers – and wire sparklers. You may purchase these items in North

Carolina only if you are 16 years of age or older.

Please remember to follow all necessary safety precautions when using any of



these devices. Misuse of fireworks can lead to serious injury, death and/or property loss. More than 10,000 people are hurt annually due to fireworks. If you

use any of these devices, keep a hose or bucket of water nearby. Be aware of your surroundings and do not light items near anything that is flammable. Remember, grass, trees and buildings can easily catch on fire if you are not careful.

During this exciting holiday time, don't forget your pets! They are often fearful of fireworks and the loud noises they make. Humane Societies across the nation encourage pet owners to keep their pets indoors and make sure animals have identification tags in case they run away.

For additional information, please contact the Kannapolis Fire Department at 704-920-4260 or mbostian@kannapolisnc.gov.

JUNE 2021

Discover a Healthy Life KANNAPOLIS MATTERS

KANNAPOLIS OPENS IRISH BUFFALO CREEK GREENWAY

The City now has another healthy asset for people to enjoy. The Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway is now open. This first phase of the greenway is 2.7 miles and runs along a creek from Orphanage Road to Rogers Lake Road. The greenway is 10 feet wide, paved and features three pedestrian bridges. The steel and wood bridges are installed along the portions of the greenway that cross portions of the creek.

Residents have told the City that greenways were their number one request in recent parks and recreation surveys. This greenway successfully meets that desire. We hope everyone will get out and take a walk or run on this beautiful new asset.

Vehicle parking for access to the greenway will only be available at Vietnam Veterans Park. However, pedestrians will be able to access the greenway at these locations: Oakwood Avenue (across from the Lantern Green and Stonewyck neighborhoods), Vietnam Veterans Park and Rogers Lake Road. The neighborhoods of Newman Manor and Kellswater Bridge will also be able to easily access the greenway.

The City partnered with the Carolina Thread Trail and NCDOT on the greenway. This

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COVID-19 TESTING/VACCINES

City officials continue to work closely with state and federal officials to address the COVID pandemic. We encourage you to look for updates at www.kannapolisnc.gov and on our social media platforms for City events and activities information, as things rapidly change. For vaccine/testing information, please visit <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>.



ENVIRONMENTAL TIP: SWAT-A-LITTERBUG APP

Littering North Carolina roadways is illegal and can result in fines for those that commit the offense. Some litterbugs simply need to be informed and reminded that littering – whether deliberate or unintentional – can end with a personal commitment to stop.

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Swat-A-Litterbug Program encourages the public to report people who litter in an effort to help make North Carolina roadways cleaner. The program provides every individual an opportunity to be an active participant in reducing litter on North Carolina roadways.



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GEM THEATRE GETS A FACELIFT

The restoration of the Gem Theatre Marquee has been completed and looks incredible.

The iconic Gem Theatre marquee was originally constructed in 1936. Its historic blue hues had faded and the neon lighting was not operable in some areas. It was time for a facelift. Great care was taken to preserve the historic authenticity of the marquee. Approximately 50 unique neon lighting pieces were reproduced with all new fittings and transformers. Original colors such as the distinguished blue on the marquee were restored as accurately as possible using special mixes.


The restoration of the marquee is the first phase of renovations for the Gem Theatre. The first phase also includes the addition of handicap-accessible restrooms, event space and an additional exit corridor all on the first floor, and a new HVAC system. The City of Kannapolis, as owner of the theatre, is funding the first phase at a cost of \$1.1 million. The City purchased the theatre property in 2015 as part of the Downtown Revitalization Project.

The theatre will reopen this summer in time for the summer blockbuster season.



FARMERS MARKET

The Kannapolis Farmers Market is every Thursday, 4-7 p.m., at the corner of Vance Avenue and Dale Earnhardt Boulevard. The market continues through September.



Sign up for text message reminders and updates about the farmers market and specials that vendors may be offering. Text MARKET to 855-969-4358. This is a new number so if you subscribed before, you will need to sign up again. You may unsubscribe at any time.

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greenway is a key component of the Carolina Thread Trail, a 15-county initiative to provide greenway connectivity to key attractions, destinations and population centers in the Charlotte region. Future Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway phases include Rogers Lake Road to N.C. 3 (Safrit Park) and from N.C. 3 to Bakers Creek Park and Greenway.

When additional phases of the greenway are finished, the Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway will total 7.5 miles, eventually crossing under I-85 and connecting to Concord's greenway system and providing connectivity to downtown Kannapolis.



KANNAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Kannapolis Police Lt. Allen Tomlin, Jr. was presented with the Robert J. Eury Award during the Cabarrus County Law Day Ceremony.

The Robert J. Eury Award is given to an officer who serves in the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Department, the City of Concord Police Department or the City of Kannapolis Police Department; has at least 20 years of experience; and is someone who embodies the integrity of Lt. Robert Eury.

This is the most prestigious law enforcement award in the community. Lt. Eury was killed in the line of duty in 1972 while serving with the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Department. The award is given annually to an officer who demonstrates true commitment to law enforcement and service to the community.

NEW CITY DOWNTOWN PARKING DECK OPENS

With the first season of the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers now underway, downtown parking areas have gotten a facelift. The City of Kannapolis VIDA parking deck is now open, and new signage and striping have been added to parking lots. The VIDA parking deck is located at the intersection of South Main and Vance Streets. Entrances are on Vance and South Main Streets.

The public is welcome to park in the VIDA deck free of charge. Free public parking spaces are available on West Avenue, Research Campus Drive, Veterans Park, Laureate Way, West A Street and Cannon Baller Way. Free public parking is also available in these lots: Oak Ave., Train Station/South Main Street, North Main Street, the unpaved Horseshoe lot (across from First Baptist Church) and City Hall. Additionally, for special events, including Cannon Baller games, parking is available

after 6 p.m. in the NCRC Deck and in the following lots: University, Watson Crick, and Wellness Way.

VIDA residents are welcome to park in the VIDA deck and in the Main Street and Oak Avenue public parking lots. VIDA residents will need to obtain a parking decal and display it on their rearview mirrors in order to park overnight in these designated areas.

Amtrak passengers who need to park overnight in the Train Station/Main Street Parking Lot may secure a temporary parking decal from the Train Station attendant.

Downtown business owners, tenants and employees are welcome to park in non-premium parking spaces. They cannot park in premium parking spaces. These are reserved for the public. (Premium parking spaces are: all on-street spaces in the following locations – West Avenue/

Research Campus Drive between Vance Street and the southern horseshoe sidewalk entrance and Veterans Park; Laureate Way between Main Street and Chestnut Avenue; West A Street between Main Street and West Avenue; Cannon Baller Way between Main Street and Oak Avenue). Parking is available in the VIDA Deck during the day; no overnight parking in the deck.

Parking will be prohibited between 2 and 6 a.m. every day in the VIDA Parking Deck, the Oak Avenue Parking Lot and the Train Station//South Main Street Parking Lots unless you have a City permit from the Train Station or the VIDA Apartment Leasing Office.

Handicap parking is available along West Avenue, in the parking lots and the VIDA deck.

For more information, a downtown parking map and a Kannapolis Cannon Ballers gameday parking map, visit www.kannapolisnc.gov/parking.

